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Operations of the Mint of the United States, 1839.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Philadelphia, January 30, 1840.

SIR: In compliance with the law, which requires that "in the month of January of every year the director shall make report to the President of the United States of the operations of the mint and its branches for the year preceding," I have the honour to submit to you the following statements:

The coinage executed at this mint, in 1839, amounted to $3,021,170 11, comprising $1,040,747 50 in gold, $1,949,136 in silver, and $31,286 61 in copper, and composed of 9,260,345 pieces. (Statement A.)

The deposits of gold within the year amounted to $1,042,500, of which $138,500 was derived from the mines of the United States. (Statements B and C.)

The deposits of silver amounted to $1,851,500, and consisted principally of Mexican dollars. (Statement E.)

At the close of the year, the public funds in our vaults, under the laws authorizing deposits with the mint for the purchase of metals for coinage, and for securing prompt payments to depositors, amounted to $516,697 04 in gold and silver. The amount withdrawn during the year, on Treasury drafts, was $648,730 58, and the amount added $33,000.

The coinage at the New Orleans branch mint, up to the 17th of August, when operations were suspended, amounted to $227,160 in silver, composed of 2,401,600 pieces of coin. (Statement D.)

The deposits for coinage during the same period amounted to $85,159 in gold, and $173,901 in silver. (Statement F.)

I have to regret that, after keeping back this annual report to the last day allowed by the law, in the expectation of obtaining from the New Orleans mint the information necessary to enable me to include its operations to the close of the year, this information has not been received; and that my report, so far as it regards this branch, is, therefore, necessarily incomplete. I may state, however, that the amount of deposites and coinage thus left unreported must be inconsiderable.*

The efficiency of this branch of the mint has been greatly reduced during the year by causes which are deeply to be deplored. First, disagreements arose among the officers, which ended in mutual denunciations, and rendered an investigation necessary as to the characters of those implicated and the state of the institution generally. The task was committed to the United States District Attorney at New Orleans, and was executed with ability and impartiality. The result showed that, although there was no reason for suspecting the integrity of any of the officers, the condition of things at the mint was such as to require painful measures of reform, which the Government did not hesitate to apply. Scarcely was this investigation ended, before the fatal epidemic, to which New Orleans is subject, made its appearance at the mint, and rendered an entire suspension of its operations absolutely necessary. The melter and refiner, and the coiner, both officers of great merit, fell at their posts, victims to the disease; and four of the workmen also lost their lives, while scarcely one escaped without an attack.

Under these circumstances, it cannot be a matter of surprise that so little has yet been accomplished at the New Orleans mint. The prospects for the future, however, are more cheering. The institution has now an able corps of officers, all of whom are acclimated, as are also nearly all the workmen. There is reason, therefore, to believe that the operations of the mint may go on without further interruption, and that the just expectations of the public with regard to it may be no longer disappointed.

The branch mint at Charlotte received, during the year, deposits of gold to the value of $126,836. The amount of its coinage was $162,767 50, composed of 23,467 half-eagles, and 18,173 quarter-eagles. (Statements D and F.)

The branch mint at Dahlonega received, during the year, deposits of gold to the value of $113,035; and its coinage amounted to $128,880, composed of 18,939 half-eagles, and 13,674 quarter-eagles. (Statements D and F.)

These two mints, established for the exclusive coinage of gold, are in a very satisfactory condition, and are fully able to execute much more work than has yet been required of them.

In my last annual report, I took the liberty of calling your attention to the fact that the law of June 28, 1834, gave too high a valuation to foreign gold coins, so as to lead the community into error with regard to them, and to prevent, in a great measure, their recoinage. As the capacity of the mint and its branches is now abundantly sufficient for all the gold coinage necessary for the metallic circulation of the country, the reasons which led to the act making foreign gold coins a legal tender are presumed to be removed; and as, moreover, the conditions of this tender are certainly erroneous, I would again express my hope that the attention of Congress may be directed to the subject, and would respectfully recommend that the act in question be repealed.

I have the honor to be sir, with great respect, your faithful servant,

R. M. PATTERSON,
Director of the Mint.

To the PRESIDENT *of the United States.*

A.—*Statement of the coinage of the Mint of the U. S., Philadelphia, in the year* 1839.

Denominations.	Pieces.	Whole number of pieces.
Gold.		
Eagles	38,248	....
Half eagles	118,143	....
Quarter eagles	27,021	....
		183,412
Silver.		
Dollars	300	....
Half dollars	3,334,561	....
Quarter dollars	491,146	....
Dimes	1,053,115	....
Half dimes	1,069,150	....
		5,948,272
Copper.		
Cents	....	3,128,661
		9,260,345

* See subsequent report, page 212.

STATEMENT A, CONTINUED.

Denominations.	Value.	Whole value.
Gold.		
Eagles	$382,480 00	
Half eagles	590,715 00	
Quarter eagles	67,552 50	
		$1,040,747 50
Silver.		
Dollars	300 00	
Half dollars	1,667,280 50	
Quarter dollars	122,786 50	
Dimes	105,311 50	
Half dimes	53,457 50	
		1,949,136 00
Copper.		
Cents		31,286 61
		$3,021,170 11

B.

Statement of deposits of gold, for coinage, at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, in the year 1839.

The deposits of gold, for coinage, amounted to		$1,042,500
Of which, was received from the United States, viz:		
Virginia	$57,600	
North Carolina	53,500	
South Carolina	6,300	
Georgia	20,300	
Alabama	500	
Tennessee	300	
	$138,500	
Coins of the United States, old standard	7,000	
Foreign bullion	167,000	
Foreign coins	730,000	
		$1,042,500

C.

Statement of the annual amounts of deposits of gold for coinage at the Mint of the United States and its branches, from the mines of the United States.

	Deposited at the United States Mint, Philadelphia.							Deposited at the branch Mints.				Mint and branches.
Years.	Virginia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Georgia.	Tennessee.	Various sources.	Total at U. States Mint.	Branch at Charlotte N. C.	Branch at Dahlonega, Geo.	B'ch at N. O. La.	Total at branch Mints.	Total deposits of U. S. gold.
1824	....	$5,000	....	....	....	....	$5,000	....	....	....	....	$5,000
1825	....	17,000	....	....	....	....	17,000	....	....	....	....	17,000
1826	....	20,000	....	....	....	....	20,000	....	....	....	....	20,000
1827	....	21,000	....	....	....	....	21,000	....	....	....	....	21,000
1828	....	46,000	....	....	....	....	46,000	....	....	....	....	46,000
1829	$2,500	134,000	$3,500	....	....	....	140,000	....	....	....	....	140,000
1830	24,000	204,000	26,000	$212,000	....	....	466,000	....	....	....	....	466,000
1831	26,000	294,000	22,000	176,000	$1,000	$1,000	520,000	....	....	....	....	520,000
1832	34,000	458,000	45,000	140,000	1,000	....	678,000	....	....	....	....	678,000
1833	104,000	475,000	66,000	216,000	7,000	....	868,000	....	....	....	....	868,000
1834	62,000	380,000	38,000	415,000	3,000	....	898,000	....	....	....	....	898,000
1835	60,400	263,500	42,400	319,900	100	12,200	698,500	....	....	....	....	698,500
1836	62,000	148,100	55,200	201,400	300	....	467,000	....	....	....	....	467,000
1837	52,100	116,900	29,400	83,600	....	....	282,000	....	....	....	....	282,000
1838	55,000	66,000	13,000	36,000	1,500	200	171,700	$127,000	$135,700	$700	$263,400	435,100
1839	57,600	53,500	6,300	20,300	300	500	138,500	126,836	113,035	6,869	246,740	385,240
	$539,600	$2,702,000	$346,800	1,820,200	14,200	13,900	5,436,700	$253,836	$248,735	$7,569	$510,140	$5,946,840

D.

Statement of the amount of coinage at the branch Mints in the year 1839.

MINTS.	GOLD.				SILVER.				
	Half eagles.	Quarter eagles	Number of pieces.	Value.	Half dollars.	Dimes.	Half dimes.	Number of pieces.	Value.
Charlotte	23,467	18,173	41,640	$162,767 50	....	....	....	....	....
Dahlonega	18,939	13,674	32,613	128,880 00	....	....	....	....	....
New Orleans	....	....	....	....	100,000	1,241,600	1,060,000	2,401,600	$227,160
	42,406	31,847	74,253	$291,647 50	100,000	1,241,600	1,060,000	2,401,600	$227,160

STATEMENT D, CONTINUED.

MINTS.	TOTAL.	
	Whole number of pieces.	Whole value.
Charlotte	41,640	$162,767 50
Dahlonega	32,613	128,880 00
New Orleans	2,401,600	227,160 00
	2,475,853	$518,807 50

E.

Statement of deposits of silver for coinage, at the Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, in the year 1839.

The deposits of silver, for coinage, amount to $1,851,500

Of which, there was in—

Mexican dollars, ...	$1,406,000	
Five-franc pieces of France,	180,000	
Other coins, ...	100,000	
Bullion and plate.....	164,000	
Parted from gold, ...	1,500	
		$1,851,500

F.

Statement of deposits, for coinage, at the Branch Mints, in the year 1839.

	United States bullion.	Foreign bullion.	Foreign coins.	Total.
Gold.				
Charlotte branch mint, ...	$126,836			$126,836
Dahlonega branch mint, ...	113,035			113,035
New Orleans branch mint, ...	6,869	$58,158	$20,132	85,159
	$246,740	$58,158	$20,132	325,030
Silver.				
New Orleans branch mint, ...		$70,973	$102,928	173,901
Whole amount deposited at the branches,				$498,931

RECAPITULATION.

Deposited at the Charlotte branch mint, ...	$126,836
Deposited at the Dahlonega branch mint, ...	113,035
Deposited at the New Orleans branch mint, ...	259,060
	$498,931

G.

Recapitulation of deposits and coinage at the Mint of the United States and branches, in the year 1839.

MINTS.	DEPOSITS.					COINAGE.						
	Gold.			Silver.	Total.	Gold.		Silver.		Copper.		Total.	
	U. States gold.	Foreign gold.	Total of gold.			Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.	Pieces.	Value.
Philadelphia	$138,500	$904,000	$1,042,500	$1,851,500	$2,894,000	183,412	$1,040,747 50	5,948,272	$1,949,136	3,128,661	$31,286 61	9,260,345	$3,021,170 11
Charlotte.....	126,836	....	126,836	....	126,836	41,640	162,767 50	....	....	....	....	41,640	162,767 50
Dahlonega	113,035	....	113,035	....	113,035	32,613	128,880 00	....	....	....	....	32,613	128,880 00
New Orleans	6,869	78,290	85,159	173,901	259,060	....	....	2,401,600	227,160	....	....	2,401,600	227,160 00
	$385,240	$982,290	$1,367,530	$2,025,401	$3,392,931	257,665	$1,332,395 00	8,349,872	$2,176,296	3,128,661	$31,286 61	11,736,198	$3,539,977 61

Recapitulation of the amount of coinage at the Mint of the United States and its branches, from the commencement of operations to December 31, 1839.*

Commenced operations.	Mints.	Whole coinage, in pieces.	Whole coinage in value.
1793	Philadelphia mint	$235,499,086	$79,881,835 59
1838	Charlotte branch mint	62,420	246,932 50
1838	Dahlonega branch mint	53,196	231,795 00
1838	New Orleans branch mint	2,804,030	267,403 00
	Total	$238,418,732	$80,627,966 09

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Mint of the United States,
February 6, 1840.

Sir:—In the annual report which I had the honour to send to you on the 30th ultimo, I was under the necessity of leaving the statement imperfect in respect to the operations of the New Orleans mint, from which I had not been able to obtain the necessary information. A communication just received from the superintendent of that mint states, that, from the re-commencement of operations, in November, to the end of the year, they coined $23,490 in gold, consisting of 9,396 quarter-eagles; and $13,000 in silver, composed of 16,000 half dollars, and 50,000 dimes. The deposits, during the same period, amounted to $3,748 09, in gold, and 28,-267 69 in silver.

The statement of the operations of the New Orleans mint, for the year 1839, may now be presented as follows:

Amount of coinage in gold,.....	$ 23,490
Amount of coinage in silver,.....	240,160
Total coinage,.....	263,650
Amount of deposits in gold,.....	$ 88,907
Amount of deposits in silver,.....	202,168
Total deposits,.....	291,075

Whole number of pieces coined, 2,476,996

I have the honour to be, sir, very respectfully, your faithful servant,
R. M. PATTERSON,
Director of the Mint.

The President of the United States.

*For a detailed report of the coinage at the mint each year, from its commencement in 1793, see Vol. I, page 196.

N. E. Boundary.—The Legislature of Maine, have adopted a series of resolutions respecting the everlasting Boundary question, one of which is as follows:

Resolved, That unless the British Government, during the present session of Congress, make or accept a distinct and satisfactory proposition for the immediate adjustment of the Boundary Question, it will be the duty of the General Government to take military possession of the disputed territory; and in the name of a sovereign State, we call upon the National government to fulfil its constitutional obligations to establish the line which it has solemnly declared to be the true boundary; and to protect this State in extending her jurisdiction to the utmost limits of our territory.—*Mer. Jour.*

Ten millions of pigeons, it is estimated, passed over Buffalo, (N. Y.) one day last week. The heavens were black with them.

Mr. Guyer's Second Venture.

We published last summer a brief notice of one of our countrymen, (Mr. L. L. Guyer of Charleston,) having taken a boat load of produce, raised on the Charleston prairie, to St. Louis, and the result of his sales thereof. The venture, it will be recollected, turned out an unlucky one, Mr. L. having sunk about one hundred dollars by it. Nothing discouraged, however, he prepared to undertake another, believing his recent experience, though dearly bought, would in the end be turned to good account.

During the month of October last, having purchased two boats,—a flat and a keel,—he loaded them with onions from Charleston, to the amount of 2500 bushels, and had in addition a few sacks of beans and 10 or 12 kegs of butter, and on the 18th left our wharf, accompanied by the best wishes of our citizens. To navigate the boats required six hands besides the pilot. The latter was Mr. William Knott, who had through the summer acted as assistant engineer of the steamboat Frontier on the Upper Illinois, and it is from him we have obtained the particulars which follow.

The first sales were made at St. Louis, where all the beans were disposed of at $2 per bushel. A few bushels of onions also, were sold at 75 cents. All the butter was retained for a lower market.

From St. Louis the boats proceeded down the river, and stopped not till they reached Memphis, Tenn. Here sales of onions were made at 1,25 per bushel, and 2 or 3 kegs of butter at 37½ cts. per pound.

After making these sales at Memphis the boats resumed their voyage, and continued on to Vicksburg, Miss. where further sales were made at the same prices,—1,25 and 37½. By this time half the cargo was disposed of, and of course one boat (the keel) was sufficient for the residue. Half the hands, consequently, were discharged, Mr. Knott remaining with those retained.

The next stopping place was Natchez, where the remainder of the onions were sold at $1,50, and the butter at 37½. Here Mr. K. parted from Mr. Guyer and returned home, expecting Mr. G. to follow in a few days.

Of the two boats, the flat was sold at Vicksburg for about 40 dollars: the keel remained unsold, Mr. G. having declined an offer of 60 dollars for it.

Of the pecuniary results of this venture we cannot speak with any correctness. The onions cost here about 50 cents per bushel, and brought an average of $1,37½. From this are to be deducted the wages of the hands and the loss upon the boats. The belief is that it has proved a very handsome speculation, and we are rejoiced at it. It will greatly revive the spirits of the growing Charleston settlement, one of the most, if not the most promising in our country, and give a new spur to their industry. We have been told that the onion growers there regarded it as deciding the question whether they should continue or abandon the cultivation of this article. We presume they will now go on with hopes more buoyant than ever.

There is another cause for gratulation at the successful result of this venture, if indeed it has been successful. We published last fall an account of the formation, in Warren county, of an agricultural exporting company, the design of which was to export their home products to distant markets without the intervention of commission houses on the way, unless of their own creation. The novelty of the design led us to make a disparaging remark or two upon it; and we are not sure that our views, if we understand the plan, were not correct. But we cannot now help thinking that if Mr. Guyer's plan be imitated, the farmers of Warren county may derive from it a fair return for their labors.—*Peoria Reg.*

Seven days from Cuba to New York, via Charleston and railroad to Wilmington, N. C.—Several travellers who passed over the line of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad a few days ago, reached New York in 7 days from Cuba. They had 4 days passage from Havana to Charleston; and 3 from Charleston to New York: on the Wilmington and Weldon road.—*N. Y Star.*